

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4282

HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN IMMEDIATE UNN

COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO IMMEDIATE UNN

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HICOMTERPACIS FOR STATUS LNO

COMTWELVE FOR AMB. WILLIAMS

DEPT. PLS PASS INTERIOR/DOTA & OMSN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UN TQ

SUBJ: 41ST SESSION TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL; AMB. WHITE'S

OPENING STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF AMB. WHITE'S OPENING STATEMENT TO
TC JUNE 4 DEALING WITH TTPI FUTURE STATUS. WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR COMMENTS BY RETURN CABLE.

2. QTE: I TURN NOW TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY AND
I WISH TO HIGHLIGHT THAT WHICH IS NATURALLY OF MOST CONCERN TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL -- THE STEPS TAKEN BY MICRONESIA
DURING THE PAST YEAR TOWARDS THE DETERMINATION OF A NEW AND
FREELY CHOSEN POLITICAL STATUS.

/SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL, THERE HAS BEEN
CONTINUOUS AND DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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MENT AND REPS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WITH REGARD

TO THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW POLITICAL STATUS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT. AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL RECALL FROM THE LAST SESSION, FOR THE PAST 18 MONTHS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING WITH TWO SEPARATE BODIES -- THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AS WELL AS THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA -- SO AS TO RESPOND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS WHO WISH TO ESTABLISH WITH THE UNITED STATES A CLOSER FORM OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATION THAN THAT CURRENTLY DESIRED BY THE OTHER ISLAND GROUPS OF MICRONESIA.

"LAST NOVEMBER, UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIAN DELEGATES, HEADED RESPECTIVELY BY AMB. FANKLYN HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REP, AND SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, RESUMED FORMAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON. DURING THIS SEVENTH ROUND, WHICH LASTED FROM NOVEMBER 14 TO NOVEMBER 21, THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION WERE PUBLIC LAND AND FINANCE.

"HERE, A FEW WORDS OF EXPLANATION ABOUT THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC LANDS ARE IN ORDER. PUBLIC LANDS INCLUDE ALL LANDS ACQUIRED BY THE PRIOR SPANISH, GERMAN AND JAPANESE ADMINISTRATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTAL OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES AS WELL AS SUCH LANDS AS THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVT MAY ITSELF HAVE ACQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO CURRENT CALCULATIONS, OVER SIXTY PERCENT OF MICRONESIA'S TOTAL LAND AREA IS PUBLIC LAND - BY DISTRICT 90 PERCENT IN THE MARIANAS, 68 PERCENT IN PALAU, 66 PERCENT IN PONAPE, 17 PERCENT IN TRUK, 13 PERCENT IN THE MARSHALLS AND 4 PERCENT IN YAP. JUST PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THESE TALKS, THE UNITED STATES GOVT ISSUED A POLICY STATEMENT ON PUBLIC LAND IN THE TRUST TERRITORY. IN ESSENCE, THE US AGREED TO RETURN ALL PUBLIC LAND NOW HELD BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVT TO THOSE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA WHICH DESIRE SUCH RETURN.

"IN THIS POLICY STATEMENT, THE UNITED STATES REQUESTED THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO PASS SUCH ENABLING LEGISLATION AS IT NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE EARLY TRANSFER OF TITLE TO PUBLIC LANDS AND THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES IN EACH DISTRICT TO INDICATE FORMALLY THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE IN THAT DISTRICT WITH RESPECT TO THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LAND.

"AT THIS SEVENTH SESSION, THEREFORE, THERE WAS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND.. SUBSEQUENTLY, IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED

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INTO THE SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHICH MET THIS PAST WINTER ON SAIPAN. ALTHOUGH COMMITTEE HEARINGS WERE HELD ON THIS BILL, THE CONGRESS DID NOT TAKE FINAL ACTION ON IT. WE EXPECT THAT PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THIS SUMMER'S SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL SESSION AND HOPE THAT THE NECESSARY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN THEN.

"ALTHOUGH FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT THE SEVENTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED

ON THE SIZE OF THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION TO MICRONESIA AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WAS RESUMED, HOWEVER, ON SAIPAN IN JAN 1974 WHEN AMB. WILLIAMS PROPOSED AND SEN. SALII AGREED THAT THE FUTURE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF MICRONESIA BE EXPLORED INFORMALLY AND IN DEPTH THROUGH JOINT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES.

"THIS JOINT EXPLORATION WAS IN FACT CONDUCTED ON SAIPAN IN FEB 1974. LEADERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS MET AGAIN INFORMALLY IN CARMEL, CALIFORNIA IN APRIL TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THIS FINANCIAL STUDY AS WELL AS REMAINING ISSUES IN THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION. SUBSEQUENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO MORE MEETINGS BETWEEN AMB. WILLIAMS AND SEN. SALII ON GUAM. A FURTHER MEETING BETWEEN THEM IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 15. BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED NOT TO MAKE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INFORMAL AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENTS REACHED AT CARMEL PUBLIC AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE ANOTHER FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSION SOON AFTER THE JUNE 15 MEETING TO CONSIDER ALL REMAINING ISSUES. THESE WILL INCLUDE BOTH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PLEBISCITE THROUGH WHICH THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WILL BE CONSULTED ON THEIR OWN FUTURE, AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW GOVT BEFORE THE END OF THE TRUSTEESHIP.

"THUS, MR. CHAIRMAN, NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS HAVE BEEN FREQUENT AND VIGOROUS DURING THE PAST YEAR, AND GIVE PROMISE OF BEING WELL ON THEIR WAY TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

"TURNING TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AT THE FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS WHICH CONCLUDED JUNE ---- ON SAIPAN, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO ... (INFO TO BE SUPPLIED BY STATUS LNO CABLE).

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WE HOPE THAT NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE MARIANAS IN PERMANENT ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES WILL ALSO BE COMPLETED RAPIDLY AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION SHARES OUR OPTIMISM. I UNDERSTAND THAT REPS FROM THE MARIANAS WILL AGAIN BE APPEARING BEFORE THE COUNCIL AS PETITIONERS AND THEY, I AM SURE, WILL FURTHER ENLIGHTEN THE COUNCIL ON THIS MATTER.

"AS IN THE CASE OF THE REST OF MICRONESIA, THE AGREEMENT ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE MARIANAS WILL BE PUT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS BY MEANS OF A PLEBISCITE, WHICH WILL BE AGREED UPON IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

"I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL'S CONCERN OVER THE YEARS WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF THE INTEGRITY OF TRUST TERRITORIES. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE COUNCIL IS WELL AWARE OF THE SPECIAL SITUATION OF THE MARIANS, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF WHOSE INHABITANTS, AS LAST YEAR'S UN VISITING MISSION REPORT NOTED, FAVOR SEPARATION FROM THE REST OF THE TRUST TERRITORY. FOR OVER 20 YEARS, THE COUNCIL HAS RECEIVED PETITIONS FROM THE MARIANS TO THIS EFFECT. UNTIL 1972, HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES, HOPEING THAT IT WULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY, REFUSED TO ENTER UNCLASSIFIED

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INTO SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS WORTH REPEATING HERE THAT THE US AGREED TO SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS ONLY AFTER ELECTED REPS OF THE MARIANS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS BEING SOUGHT BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA-- FREE ASSOCIATION WITH PROVISION FOR UNILATERAL TERMINATION -- WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THEIR PEOPLE, WHO WISHED A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND A PERMANENT ONE.

"THE COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS REQUESTING SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. AS. AMB. WILLIAMS STATED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON SAIPAN MAY 1, IT CONTINUES TO BE THE HOPE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE MARSHALLS AND CAROLINES, WHICH CURRENTLY COMPRISE FIVE OF THE SIX DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, WILL FORM A SINGLE POLITICAL ENTITY AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. WE BELIEVE THAT THE KINDS OF ISSUES WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE PROVOKED THIS MANIFESTATION OF SEPARATIST SENTIMENT CAN BE RESOLVED BY

FURTHER TALKS BETWEEN MICRONESIANS AND THAT THEY ARE
ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL QUESTIONS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES
SHOULD NOT INTEVENE. WE FEEL THAT THE FORTHCOMING
CONSITITUTIONAL CONVENTION WILL PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT FORUM
FOR DEBATE AND RESOLUTION OF SUCH ISSUES AS RE ENUE SHARING
AND WE HOPE THAT REPS OF THE MARSHALLS WILL PARTICIPATE IN
THIS CONVENTION.

"THUS WITH REGARD TO MICRONESIA'S FUTURE, WHILE THERE
ARE STILL MANY TECHNICAL DETAILS TO BE RESOLVED AND OCCASIONAL
TEMPORARY DURDLES TO BE OVERCME, I AM GLAD TO REPORT THAT
THERE IS PURPOSEFUL MOMENTUM BY ALL CONCERNED TOWARDS
TWO GOALS-- FREEE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CAROLINES AND
MARSHALLS AND COMMONWEALTH FOR THE MARIANAS. END QTE.
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